

insertion into partly occluded passages. Very small shafts may be made with metal tubes. Shafts having outside diameters of about 0.005 inches may be provided, although in most instances, larger shafts with diameters of about 0.08 inches or larger are adequate. Lengths of the shafts may also vary between a few millimeters to over 200 centimeters. The shaft 71 may be made of a more flexible material if desired. Multi-layered counterwound wires of small diameter may be used as the shaft material. These shafts have relatively high lateral flexibility and good torsional stiffness, and can be positioned to specific angles by manual twisting or by a motor. Other shafts may comprise plastics such as polyethylene, polyimide, or nylon and may have one or more lumens. Lumens carry electrical, optical or mechanical transmission lines, or cooling fluids. In the disclosed embodiment, the shaft 71 has a screw thread 79 at the distal end to facilitate attachment and detachment of the module 41 to the shaft 71. One possible use of the attachment thread may be to release the module 41 from the end of the shaft 71, once the module 41 is positioned inside a body, by unscrewing and releasing the module 41. The tubular shaft 71 may then slide over the small connector 73, which may be left outside the body. The module 41 may be re-connected to the shaft 71 before withdrawing the module 41 from the body.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice and add claims 39-58 as shown in the attached copy of pending claims.

**REMARKS**

Applicant hereby amends the description to correct a typographical error after the drawing at issue has been redesignated, through an Amendment to Drawings filed on December 13, 2001, to be FIG. 2B. Applicant also cancels claims 1-20 without prejudice and adds new claims 39-58.

All the new claims are supported by the specification, for example, at pages 7-13, FIG. 5 and original claims 35-38. No new matter is added.

Claims 39-58 are pending after the present Amendment and presented for consideration.

### CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 were previously pending. After the present Amendment, the same amount of claims are pending with two of them being independent. Applicant submits that no extra fee is required for the claim amendment. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper.

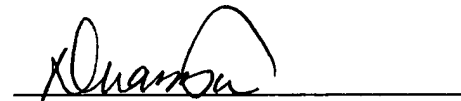
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 248-7808.

Respectfully submitted,

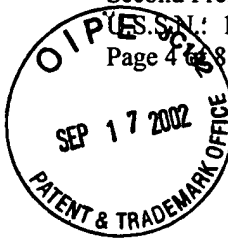
Date: September 17, 2002

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(Limited Recognition under 37 CFR  
10.9(b))  
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**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

- The paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 is amended herein as follows:

Referring to FIG. 3, the spectrometer module 41 of FIG. 2BA is disposed at the distal end of an interventional device 70. In the disclosed embodiment, the module 41 is attached to the distal end of a shaft 71, and the shaft 71 houses signal wires 9, 10, and 13. The shaft 71 terminates with a small connector 73 at the proximal end. The connector 73 may have one or more contacts arranged to permit electrical, optical, and mechanical connection to a mating connector. The shaft 71 also has a slidable stop 75 that may be prepositioned to allow control of the depth of placement within the body. The stop may be a collar with a collet ring 77 that tightens when twisted to provide a positive stop. The shaft 71 may comprise a tube, such as stainless steel hypo tube, superelastic (nitinol) tube, or the like. The advantage of such shafts is that they are relatively rigid and allow insertion into partly occluded passages. Very small shafts may be made with metal tubes. Shafts having outside diameters of about 0.005 inches may be provided, although in most instances, larger shafts with diameters of about 0.08 inches or larger are adequate. Lengths of the shafts may also vary between a few millimeters to over 200 centimeters. The shaft 71 may be made of a more flexible material if desired. Multi-layered counterwound wires of small diameter may be used as the shaft material. These shafts have relatively high lateral flexibility and good torsional stiffness, and can be positioned to specific angles by manual twisting or by a motor. Other shafts may be comprise plastics such as polyethylene, polyimide, or nylon and may have one or more lumens. Lumens carry electrical, optical or mechanical transmission lines, or cooling fluids. In the disclosed embodiment, the shaft 71 has a screw thread 79 at the distal end to facilitate attachment and detachment of the module 41 to the shaft 71. One possible use of the attachment thread may be to release the module 41 from the end of the shaft 71, once the module 41 is positioned inside a body,

by unscrewing and releasing the module 41. The tubular shaft 71 may then slide over the small connector 73, which may be left outside the body. The module 41 may be re-connected to the shaft 71 before withdrawing the module 41 from the body.